

In the summer of 2005, Vice President CHENEY told Americans that the so-called insurgents of Iraq were in their last throes.

Fast forward to the morning papers this week. The Washington Post, and I quote, "Situation Called Dire in West Iraq; Anbar is Lost Politically, Marine Analyst Says."

The San Francisco Chronicle, quote, "Police Discover 65 Bodies Across Iraq."

The New York Times, "New Wave of Violence Flares Across Baghdad."

The BBC, "Iran Offers Iraq Full Support."

On top of that, according to the Department of Defense, in September so far 23 of America's brave servicemembers died in this seemingly endless occupation. Throughout this occupation there have been 2,900 coalition deaths. Almost 2,700 of those are Americans. An average of 100 Iraqi civilians are dying each day.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for a reality check. The so-called insurgents are not in their last throes. The mission is not accomplished, far from it.

This administration, the President, the Vice President, Secretary Rumsfeld, and Secretary Rice, won't admit they have made a mistake. Instead of planning for withdrawal, which is supported, by the way, by the American people and the Iraqi public as well, this administration is wearing blinders and pressing on. They even have the very nerve to question the patriotism of anyone who dares to take off the rose-colored glasses and speak the truth about the occupation of Iraq.

What kind of America is that? Americans are asking, they are asking, are we safer than we were 5 years ago? They know the answer; the answer is no. They question why the President didn't dedicate serious efforts to the capture of Osama bin Laden. And they know when they ask, is he working on that, the answer is no. And they also ask whether the President has dedicated serious efforts to being a partner for peace in the Middle East, and the results that they see prove that the answer is no. Instead, private citizens are being wiretapped, torture runs rampant, and the administration plays politics with the tragic events of September 11.

Is this the kind of America we want to pass on to our children? Is this the kind of America that will win us friends on the world stage? The answer, of course, is no. It is time for a reality check. It is time to support an alternative to these misguided policies.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to seriously consider whether our current policy is going in the right direction, because Congress has the power to change it. Congress has the power to make the much-needed changes. And one important change for Congress to make would be to resume our constitutional role and revoke the President's Iraq war powers. We could also insist on a

plan, and we must insist on a plan, to bring our troops home. And it is time to give Iraq back to the Iraqi people. But, most of all, it is time to tell the President, no more.

I urge my colleagues, stand up for our troops. Cosponsor my bill, H.R. 5875, the Iraq War Powers Repeal Act, because, Mr. Speaker, enough is enough. It is time to bring our troops home.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GOHMERT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to join my colleagues today in recognizing the vital contribution historically Black colleges and universities make to our Nation. I am especially pleased for the opportunity to honor these great institutions, which have given the African American community so much for so many years.

HBCUs have been in existence for more than a century, fulfilling the hopes and dreams of many African Americans who might not have otherwise had the opportunity to achieve the dream of higher education. And they are still relevant and necessary today.

As President Clinton once said, "Historically Black colleges and universities continue to play a vital role by adding to the diversity and caliber of the Nation's higher education system. Furthermore, these institutions remind all Americans of our obligations to uphold the principles of justice and equality enshrined in our Constitution."

While comprising less than 3 percent of all American colleges and universities, HBCUs educate nearly 85 percent of African-American college graduates in the United States. I am among them.

As a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Howard University, and the proud father of another Howard University graduate, I know firsthand the opportunities these great institutions provide.

In 2004, HBCUs turned out 131,241 African-American graduates with 4-year bachelors degrees. That represents the highest number of degrees awarded to African Americans in this Nation's history—more than double the amount awarded in 1990.

In the 7th District of Maryland, which I represent, Baltimore's Morgan State University now ranks 8th nationally in the number of baccalaureate degrees earned by African Americans.

And these institutions are not just providing opportunities to their students. Across the length and breadth of America, the more than 100 HBCUs are having a positive impact upon the communities in which they are located—and upon the Nation as a whole.

Coppin State University, also in my District, is demonstrating its crucial role in the community by its "adoption" of nearby Rosemont Elementary School; and by the Nursing Center that offers affordable health care to the children and adults in its vicinity.

Mr. Speaker, we must continue to support these vitally important institutions of higher learning.

I applaud the President for his proclamation acclaiming the contributions that HBCUs are making to all of America—and I urge him to work with my colleagues in Congress to match those words with the funding that these institutions so desperately need.

Our historically Black colleges and universities are remarkably adept at accomplishing a lot with a little, but they need more public support. Just look at the HBCUs hit by Hurricane Katrina that continued providing class sessions in what can be termed less than ideal circumstances. I applaud their resiliency.

As we continue to celebrate HBCU week, let us not forget the social interest in keeping them vital and thriving. Each year, HBCUs produce the leaders of tomorrow: writers, musicians, actors, activists, business leaders, lawyers, doctors—and Members of Congress.

Let's honor these great American institutions by supporting our Nation's HBCUs both in rhetoric and in practice—by providing sufficient funding for their continued existence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CLYBURN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in recognition of National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week. This special week, the nation pays tribute to HBCUs that make such a difference developing young minds and shaping our future.

As defined by the Higher Education Act of 1965, HBCUs are "any historically black college or university that was established prior to 1964, whose principle mission was, and is, the education of black Americans, and that is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association determined by the Secretary (of Education) to be a reliable authority as to the quality of training offered or is, according to such an agency or association, making reasonable progress toward accreditation."

Nearly fourteen percent of our country's African American students in higher education are enrolled at HBCUs. These colleges and universities are preparing a new generation of leaders, business people, teachers and scholars. They play a vital role in ensuring that our higher education system is the finest in the world. This year's HBCUs Week is themed, "The Tradition Continues: New Successes and Challenges," which is a tribute to the rich tradition of HBCUs and the enduring role they play in the weave of our social fabric.

North Carolina is home to several HBCUs, and I am particularly proud of the two in my Congressional District; Shaw University and Fayetteville State University.

Shaw University, located in Raleigh, was founded in 1865, making it the oldest HBCU in the South. Shaw is a private, coeducational, liberal arts university, awarding degrees at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Affiliated with the Baptist Church, the primary mission of the University is teaching with the commitment to maintain excellence in research and academic programs that foster intellectual enhancement and technological skills. Shaw stresses character development, which includes religious, cultural, social and ethical values. The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, a major force in the Civil Rights Movement, got its start at a conference held at Shaw in 1960. Dr. Clarence G. Newsome currently serves as President of Shaw University.

Fayetteville State University is a constituent institution of the University of North Carolina. The primary mission of the university is to provide quality education to its students through a basic liberal arts foundation, specialized professional training, and specific graduate programs. The university is fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. In addition, individual university departments, degree programs, and service functions hold memberships and accreditations with appropriate professional organizations. Chancellor T.J. Bryan is the tenth Chief Executive Officer of the 138-year old HBCU and the first female to head the institution.

Mr. Speaker, as the former Superintendent of North Carolina's public schools, I know well the outstanding contributions made to our state and nation by Shaw University, Fayetteville State University and all of our Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and I am pleased to join my colleagues in paying tribute to national HBCUs Week.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. ROSS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ROSS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

IN RECOGNITION OF HBCU WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week. Historically Black Colleges and Universities play a critical role in the American higher education system. This year's theme—"The Tradition Continues: New Successes and Challenges"—is especially fitting considering the precarious state of affairs of higher education funding and student aid for all institutions of higher education. These theme is also appropriate as many HBCUs around the country welcomed students displaced last year by Hurricane Katrina.

For most of America's history, African Americans who received a college education could only get it from an HBCU. Today, HBCUs remain one of the surest ways for an African

American, or student of any race, to receive a high quality education. In 1965, Congress officially defined an HBCU in Title III of the Higher Education Act as an institution: whose principal mission was the education of black Americans; that is accredited; and that was established before 1964.

The first HBCU, Cheney University in Pennsylvania, was founded in 1837. Today, there are 105 Historically Black Colleges and Universities. I am proud to have 5 HBCUs in my home State of Virginia: Hampton University, Norfolk State University, Saint Paul's College, Virginia State University, and Virginia Union University.

HBCUs graduate far more than their share of African American professionals. While the 105 HBCUs represent just 3 percent of the Nation's institutions of higher learning, they graduate nearly one-quarter of African Americans who earn undergraduate degrees.

HBCUs, because of their unique sensibility to the special needs of young African American minds, remain the institutions that demonstrate the most effective ability to graduate African American students who are poised to be competitive in the corporate, research, academic, governmental and military arenas.

Consider these statistics:

Experts in their chosen field

Over half of all African American professionals are graduates of HBCUs.

Nine of the top ten colleges that graduate the most African Americans who go on to earn Ph.D.s are HBCUs.

More than 50 percent of the Nation's African American public school teachers and 70 percent of African American dentists earned degrees at HBCUs.

HBCUs Spelman College and Bennett College produce over half of the nation's African American female doctorates in all science fields.

Excellent Institutions

As ranked by Black Enterprise in 2003, seven of the top ten "Top Colleges and Universities for African Americans," including the top six, were HBCUs.

HBCU Xavier University #1 nationally in placing African-Americans into medical school. HBCUs also dominate the upper echelon in terms of numbers of African American graduates per school for the last academic year.

Seven of the top eight producers of African-American baccalaureates overall were HBCUs, including #1 Florida A&M University and #2 Howard University.

Sixteen of the top 21 producers of African American baccalaureates in biological and biomedical sciences were HBCUs, including the entire top six: Xavier University of LA (#1), Hampton University (#2), Howard University (#3), Morgan State University (#4), Jackson State University (#5), and Tennessee State University (#6).

Eight of the top nine producers of African American baccalaureates in mathematics and statistics were HBCUs: #1 Morehouse College, #2 South Carolina State University, #3 Alabama State University, #3 Spelman College, #5 Southern University and A&M College, #6 Tennessee State University, #7 Hampton University, and #9 Howard University.

Three of the top five producers of African American baccalaureates in psychology were HBCUs: #1 Florida A&M University, #3 Hampton University, and #5 Howard University.

While these statistics overwhelmingly demonstrate the importance of HBCUs, the proof of the power of an HBCU is in the success of its graduates. I am proud to serve with 15 members of the U.S. House of Representatives that are graduates of these fine institutions.

Mr. Speaker, HBCUs have played an important role in educating African-American students. I would like to commend them for their past efforts and wish them continued success in the future. I am confident that HBCUs will continue to ensure that students of all races receives a quality higher education.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. SNYDER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SNYDER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HINCHEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. EMANUEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE WEEK THAT WAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, What a week this has been. It began on Sunday when the President dispatched his Secretary of State and Vice President to the Sunday talk-shows to re-create the Administration's fiction that Iraq and al-Qaeda were connected.

Their appearances came shortly after the Republican controlled Senate Intelligence Committee told the American people in a bipartisan report that there were no ties between Iraq and al-Qaeda. No Ties.

But, the Secretary of State and Vice President wouldn't let the facts stand in the way. In appearance after appearance, they kept telling the American people to be afraid, to believe their fiction about Iraq.